Production of Cement

1416. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the target set and achievementsm ade in the production of Cement during the last three years ;

(b) whether there has been a shortfall in the production of Cement recently ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase production; and

(e) what has been the performance of Cement producing units in Public and Private Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) The target and production are as under :

(in million tonnes)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (up to Jan. 94)*
Target .	55.00	56.50	50.00
Production	54.01	54.14	46.89

*Annual Target—60.00 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Production has been increasing but has been slightly below the target. The main reasons for shortfall are recessionary trends in the economy and the resultant fall in demand particularly from the Government sector and infrastructural constraints like power cut/trippings, short supply of wagons for movement of cement in certain areas, inferior quality of coal, etc.

(d) Infrastructural constraints reported by Cement plants are discussed in inter-departmental meetings and prompt remedial action is taken so as to ensure availability of coal and wagons for the cement sector. Industry has also been encouraged to promote exports.

(e) while the capacity utilisation of private sector cement plants has been about 85-86%, this was 55—57% in the case of public sector during the period.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Public Sector Undertakings

1417. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Voluntary Retirement Scheme is under operation in the public sector undertakings ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of employees who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme during 1991-92 and 1992-93, enterprise-wise; and

(d) what are the projections for 1993-94 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) : Government advised in October, 1988 Central Public Sector Enterprises who have surplus manpower to adopt Voluntary Retirement Scheme under which the following benefits are admissible to the employees opting for voluntary retirement :

(i) the balance in his Provident Fund Account payable as per the CPF regulations.

(ii) cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave as per the rulres of the enterprises.

(iii) gratuity as per the Gratuity Act or the gratuity scheme applicable to the employees.

(iv) one month's/three months' notice pay (as per the conditions of service applicable to him).

(v) an ex-gratia payment equivalent to 1-1/2 months' emoluments (pay plus DA) for each completed year of service or the monthly emolument (pay plus DA) at the time of retirement multiplied by the balance months of service left before the normal date of retirement, whichever is less.

(vi) the employees and his family can also travel by the entitled class to the place where the intends settling down. Entitlement includes transportation cost of personal effects as may be admissible in the case of superannuation/retirement.

The Voluntary Retirement Scheme is not required to be adopted by the PSEs who do not have surplus man power.